Problem of silting in Nathpa Jhakri Hydel Project

666. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that silt in the Sutluj has created problems for the 1500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydel Project;

(b) whether it is a fact that in less than three years after it was commissioned, the project has seen frequent and prolonged shutdowns, severely affecting power generation and resulting in huge loss, roughly Rs. 600 crore injust six months; and

(c) if so, whether Government have made any efforts to deal with the heavy silt content in River Satluj and if so, the action proposed in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. The high silt content in Satluj river during monsoon season from June to September causes damages/erosion to under water parts of the 1500 MW Nathpa Jathpa Jhakri Hydro-electric Power station.

(b) The Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited have informed that during the last three years the project was shut down for the period and reasons given below:—

SI. No.	Year	No. of hours of shut down averaged for 6 Units.	Reasons
1.	2004	1962.37 -around 14 days*	Due to high alert and flood in Satluj river.
2.	2005	6354.40 -around 44 days*	Due to flood in Satluj river due to bursting of Parechu lake and high content of silt in river water.
		-around 45 days	Due to flooding of power house.
3.	2006 (up to 26.7.2006)	1314.57 -around 7 days*	Due to heavy silt in river water.

*Averaged for the 6 Units-Nos. of hours of closure of each unit divided by 6X24.

The total consolidated loss suffered by closing of Nathpa Jhakri Hydroelectric Project Units on account of above is approximately Rs. 363.13 crores since the date of commissioning.

(c) The following steps have been taken to deal with the heavy silt content in river Satluj:—

(i) Units are closed when the silt level exceed specified/permissible limits as prescribed in the operation manual of the power station;

(ii) The underwater parts have been coated with Tungsten Carbide Coating by High Velocity Oxygen Fuel (HVOF);

(iii) Strict implementation of Catchment Area Treatment Plant amounting to Rs. 29.75 crores through Himachal Pradesh State Forest Department;

(iv) The treatment of identified Nallahs contributing high content of silt with quartz in the river water upstream of dam axis;

(v) Prevention of dumping of muck in the Satluj river;

(vi) Weekly flushing of reservoir at Nathpa Dam to reduce the silt load.

Commencing of Tadadi Thermal Power Project in Uttar Kannada district

667. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Ultra Mega Thermal Power Project planned at Tadadi in Uttar Karnada district would commence;

(b) whether Government have asked the State Government to begin the works by January, 2007;

(c) whether the Stajte Government has obtained clearance from the Centre; and

(d) whether there is any proposal with the Central to set up a separate company to manage thermal power projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Power through Finance Corporation has taken an initiative for facilitating the development of a few 4,000 MW Ultra Mega